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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

January 18, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
Office of the Speaker  
H-232 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Speaker:

I write to once again renew my call for prompt passage of HR 17, the Secure Rural Schools and County Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2007 (County Payments Program) and urge your inclusion of it in your 100 Hour Agenda. As you know, approximately 4,400 school districts in 615 counties across 39 states in our country rely on this critical program to fund their schools, roads, emergency services and other essential public services. This Act and funding for it expired in September 2006, and counties are desperate for the help committed to them nearly 100 years ago by the federal government.

Congressman Peter DeFazio and I have led the strongly bipartisan effort to reauthorize and fund this vital program, and we appreciated your assistance along with the Republican Leadership to allow our bill to be considered under Unanimous Consent in the final hours of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. Unfortunately, an objection was raised to it on the floor. Thus, on January 4<sup>th</sup> we reintroduced our measure and today I began a series of 18 speeches on the floor to highlight the critical importance of the County Payments Program to counties in my district as well as throughout rural America that rely on it.

Failure by the Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the County Payments Program has already created emergencies for timbered counties across America, and it deserves consideration in the 100 Hour Agenda. I hope you agree and will act quickly to place it on your priority list of critical legislation to be considered promptly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

GREG WALDEN  
Member of Congress

GREG WALDEN  
2D DISTRICT, OREGON  
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